

JAPAN
1931-1941

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Oral Statement by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs
(Arita) to the American Ambassador in Japan (Grew)
(Translation)

(Tokyo.) June 28, 1940.

1. The views of the Japanese Government concerning the basic policy of the American Government as stated by Your Excellency at the time of our interview on June 19 are as set forth on a separate document. I wish to refer you, as well, to my oral statements of May 18, 1939, and June 12, 1940. While in comparing the two positions, there appear to be differences of opinion between our Governments, when consideration is given to the unavoidable conditions accompanying military activities on a large scale, I do not believe that the viewpoints indicated by our two countries are irreconcilable.

2. I have given the most careful study to the proposal which Your Excellency set forth at our meeting on June 24. In view of present international conditions, however, I doubt whether consideration should be given to an exchange of formal notes between our two countries on the basis of a policy of giving effect directly to this proposal. In Europe at the present time hostilities are progressing. Japan is greatly concerned with the effect which the development of the hostilities will have on the status of the possessions and territories in the Pacific area of European belligerent nations. Under this situation, during a transitionary period, for the United States and Japan, which countries are not belligerents, to conclude any sort of an agreement concerning these possessions and territories would, it must be feared, give rise to very delicate relationships for Japan which has taken a position of non-involvement. I am, therefore, endeavoring at this time to offset and to prevent the spread of the European disturbance to the Pacific Ocean and with that purpose in mind and from that point of view, I believe it to be timely and appropriate to consider whether or not there is no room for discussions of problems concerning only the United States and Japan.

3. As I stated on the 24th, however, we cannot consider the American proposal dissociated from conversations which have been held hitherto, and in order to make further progress in our conversations concerning your proposal I believe it to be necessary in the first place to be informed of your Government's views with regard to the statements set forth in my oral statement dated June 12th.

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日本外務大臣（有田）ノ日本駐在米國大使（グルー）
ニ對スル口頭聲明

（翻譯）

「東京」一九四〇年／昭和十五年六月二十八日
六、六月十九日ニ於ケル我等ノ會見ニ際シ閣下ノ述ベ
ラレシ米國政府ノ根本方針ニ關スル日本政府ノ見
解ハ別紙文書ニ附載セラレアル通りナリ。
余ハ更ニ一九三九年／昭和十四年／五月十八日及
一九四〇年／昭和十五年／六月十二日ノ會ノ口頭
聲明ニ閣下ガ御留意アラシキ事ヲ望ム。

兩國ノ立場ヲ比較スルニ兩國政府間ニハ意見ノ相
違セル如ク見ユルモ大規模ノ軍事行動ヲ伴フ避ケ
難キ狀態ニ考慮スレバ余ハ兩國ニ於テ示サレタル
見解ガ調和シ得ザルモノトハ信ゼザルナリ。

二、余ハ六月二十四日ニ於ケル我等ノ會見ニ於テ閣下
ガ提示セラレタル案ニ對シテハ最も慎重ナル考究
ヲ遂ゲタリ。去リ乍ラ現在ノ國際情勢ニ鑑ミ余ハ
果シテ右提案ヲ直接實行ニ移スガ如キ方針ニ基キ
兩國間ニ公式覺書ヲ交換スル事ヲ考慮スルノ要ア
リヤ否ヤ疑問ヲ抱クモノナリ。

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Doc 2207.

現在歐洲ニ於テハ交戦進行中ナリ。日本ハ右交戦ノ進展ガ歐洲交戦國ノ太平洋地域ニ於ケル屬領ノ現狀ニ及ボスベキ影響ニ就キ深キ關心ヲ有スルモノナリ。斯カル情況ノ下ニ過渡的時期ニ於テ非交戦國タル日本ト合衆國ガコレ等屬領ニ關シ何等カノ協定ヲ締結スルハ今日マデ不介入ノ立場ヲ執リ來リシ日本ニ對シ忘ラクハ過メテ微妙ナル關係ヲ發生セシム可シ。故ニ余ハ現在歐洲ノ動亂ガ太平洋ニ擴大サレルヲ速斷シ防止センタメ努力シ后ル次第ニテ右目的ヲ如記シ右見地ヨリ余ハ合衆國及日本ノミニ關スル問題ニ就キ對陸ノ余地有リヤ否ヤヲ考慮スルハ時宜ヲ待タル適切ノコトト信スルモノナリ。

三、然レ共余ガ二十四日ニ申述べタル如ク我等ハ米國ノ提議ヲ今日マデ必ク來タリシ會談ト分離シテ考フル事能ハズ又閣下ノ提議ニ關シ我等ノ會談ヲ今後進展セシムル爲ニモ余ハ元ヅ六月十二日付余ノ口頭聲明ニ於テ頗多シク該事項ニ關スル貴國政府ノ見解ヲ承ヘルコト必要ナリト信ズル次第ナリ。

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